



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending September 20, 2009

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This report can be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa and click on "Pennsylvania Publications."

Excellent Week for Field Work: Pennsylvania had a total of 6 days suitable for field work. Farmers enjoyed the dry weather throughout last week, but some rain is needed to help develop the recently seeded crops. Primary field activities were: making hay, filling silos, as well as harvesting potatoes, apples, tobacco, fruits, and vegetables. Fall plowing continues, and is 34% completed, behind last year's 39%, and the five year average of 36%.

Nationwide as of September 13, 2009: Abnormally wet weather prevailed across much of the Great Plains, with several areas receiving total accumulations upwards of 800 percent of normal. A slow-moving low pressure system brought some much needed moisture to areas in the southern Great Plains, with over 4 inches of rain falling in some areas. In contrast, much of the Great Basin, northern Rocky Mountains, Great Lakes, and northern Corn Belt were dry. Warmer temperatures settled in across the majority of the Nation, with average recordings in the Great Lakes States as many as 10 degrees above normal. Conversely, below average temperatures were experienced in areas of the Pacific Northwest, Southwest, and from Texas eastward along the Gulf Coast and up the Atlantic Coast.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending September 20, 2009

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
6	20	71	3

Crop Progress: Ninety percent of corn has reached the dough stage, behind last year's estimate of 95% and the five year average of 98%. Seventy percent of corn has reached the dent stage, well behind 77% last year, and the average of 87%. Eighteen percent of the corn is mature, which is behind last year's 33%, and the average of 52%. Five percent of the corn is harvested, behind last year's 13% and the average of 16%. Forty-three percent of the corn silage harvest is completed, which is also behind last year's estimate of 60% and the average of 69%. Barley planting is 24% completed. This is behind last year's 34% and the 30% average. The barley planted in previous weeks has begun to emerge. Barley is 7% emerged, compared to 9% last year and 11% average. Wheat planting has begun, and is 13% completed. This is compared to 15% last year, and the 12% average. Tobacco harvesting is 89% harvested. This is trailing last year's 91% and the average of 92%. Potatoes are 71% harvested, ahead of last year's 46% and the average of 51%. Third cutting alfalfa is 94% completed, behind last year's 100%, and the average of 97%. The fourth cutting of alfalfa is 41% completed. This is behind last year's 66%, and the average of 54%. Forty-eight percent of Pennsylvania's apples were reported harvested, ahead of last year's 39%, and behind the average of 51%.

Corn: Acreage at or beyond the dough stage reached 93 percent by week's end, 2 points behind last year and 5 points behind the 5-year average. Sixty-six percent of the Nation's corn acreage was at the dent stage or beyond, 10 points behind last year and 20 points, or over 1 week, behind the average. Denting was active across much of the major corn-producing regions, with the most progress evident in the northern Corn Belt where above average temperatures and dry conditions prevailed during the week. Crop maturity advanced 4 points during the week to 12 percent complete, 5 points behind last year and 25 points behind normal. Significant delays in maturity were evident in all estimating States except North Carolina where progress was on par with the average. Overall, 69 percent of the corn crop was rated in good to excellent condition, unchanged from last week but 8 points better than last year.

Soybeans: Leaves were dropping on 17 percent of the 2009 soybean acreage, 3 points behind last year and 19 points, or slightly over 1 week, behind the 5-year average. Leaf drop was most active in Minnesota and Ohio during the week, but remained behind normal in all estimating States following delays earlier in the growing season. Overall, 68 percent of the soybean crop was rated in good to excellent condition, unchanged from last week but 11 points better than last year.

Crop Condition: The state's corn conditions are 1% very poor, 3% poor, 15% fair, 53% good and 28% excellent. State-wide soybean condition is 3% poor, 18% fair, 50% good, and 29% excellent. Overall quality of hay is 2% very poor, 4% poor, 20% fair, 49% good, and 25% excellent. Pasture conditions are at 2% very poor, 5% poor, 23% fair, 53% good and 17% excellent. The apple conditions are at 1% fair, 58% good and 41% excellent.

Winter Wheat: Producers seeded 8 percent of their intended 2010 winter wheat crop during the week, leaving progress at 13 percent, 4 points ahead of last year but on par with the 5-year average. Seeding was most active in the Pacific Northwest and northern Rocky Mountains where dry conditions favored fieldwork and in areas of the Great Plains where soil moisture levels were adequate to help establish germination.

Small Grains: Oat harvest reached 96 percent complete by week's end, 4 points behind last year and 3 points behind the 5-year average. Producers in South Dakota completed their harvest during the week, while progress in Minnesota and North Dakota lagged the average by 6 and 14 points, respectively.

Weather Data For Week Ending September 20, 2009

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - September 20, 2009					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	74	47	62	-3	0.00	0	18.56	-2.70	72	2,361	4	3,952
Franklin	77	44	62	0	0.00	0	24.65	1.09	78	2,230	34	3,815
Meadville	75	42	61	1	0.01	1	20.29	-3.18	79	2,178	165	3,755
Mercer	80	43	62	1	0.09	1	22.42	-0.02	82	2,217	42	3,804
Springboro	78	38	59	-5	0.00	0	19.93	-0.83	77	1,962	-364	3,512
Warren	77	41	60	0	0.00	0	24.42	0.80	71	2,061	-67	3,627
North Central												
Bradford Region	73	33	56	-2	0.01	1	24.07	0.44	82	1,537	-11	3,042
Oswayo	74	30	56	-3	0.02	1	23.17	0.85	83	1,617	-89	3,131
Kane	74	33	56	0	0.00	0	27.56	3.54	78	1,528	11	3,030
Laporte	71	40	56	-5	0.69	2	28.70	6.95	89	1,794	-384	3,348
Lock Haven	80	44	63	2	0.15	1	25.34	3.92	71	2,444	133	4,061
Port Allegany	74	31	56	-2	0.00	0	21.84	-0.48	74	1,748	42	3,280
Renovo	80	40	62	1	0.00	0	19.66	-1.76	75	2,331	20	3,939
Ridgway	76	35	59	2	0.00	0	22.00	-1.44	72	1,788	38	3,312
Stevenson Dam	78	43	62	4	0.00	0	19.02	-4.42	70	2,213	463	3,797
Towanda	76	40	60	-2	0.17	2	22.94	4.84	75	2,209	15	3,802
Wellsboro	75	34	56	-2	0.00	0	22.93	4.76	77	1,663	15	3,194
Williamsport	81	44	64	1	0.06	1	22.54	1.47	73	2,736	189	4,400
Northeast												
Hawley	75	37	57	-3	0.64	2	28.09	7.52	73	1,991	107	3,565
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	76	39	60	-3	0.22	1	22.78	2.82	73	2,466	49	4,105
Susquehanna	74	37	58	0	0.18	2	23.15	1.24	77	2,063	275	3,638
West Central												
Butler	79	44	62	0	0.00	0	21.53	-0.79	80	2,179	-97	3,770
New Castle	84	44	65	3	0.00	0	18.89	-1.46	72	2,515	237	4,124
Slippery Rock	85	44	65	5	0.00	0	22.04	0.30	76	2,305	256	3,895
Central												
Altoona/Blair	77	42	62	-1	0.02	1	17.37	-2.00	80	2,347	-74	3,957
DuBois	76	41	60	0	0.00	0	23.81	1.38	83	2,102	4	3,674
Lewistown	81	43	64	-1	0.05	1	23.64	2.83	75	2,565	-92	4,198
Middletown	80	47	65	-1	0.22	2	27.58	6.93	79	3,053	57	4,729
Prince Gallitzi	76	37	60	0	0.00	0	19.13	-5.82	79	1,955	4	3,497
Selinsgrove	79	45	62	-1	0.14	1	25.40	3.82	65	2,483	-3	4,100
State College	76	42	62	0	0.00	0	20.77	1.20	78	2,447	57	4,067
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	78	41	62	-3	0.29	2	27.09	4.46	74	2,683	-57	4,326
Lehighton	74	43	60	-4	0.92	3	32.77	10.32	80	2,339	-305	3,961
Matamoras	78	39	59	-4	0.48	2	23.84	1.13	65	2,190	-201	3,780
Mt_Pocono	72	38	57	1	0.15	3	29.31	5.16	90	2,012	373	3,577
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	80	51	66	4	0.01	1	17.23	-3.42	81	2,751	316	4,403
Indiana_PA	79	44	62	-1	0.00	0	10.40	-13.80	60	2,334	-22	3,931
Myersdale	79	40	61	-2	0.01	1	21.71	-1.76	79	1,803	-464	3,323
Mount Pleasant	80	45	63	2	0.00	0	24.27	-0.25	78	2,401	344	4,018
Pittsburgh Intl	81	52	66	3	0.00	0	18.07	-1.37	73	2,753	204	4,401
Connellsville	84	48	67	4	0.00	0	24.74	1.81	82	2,662	67	4,307
Waynesburg	82	47	65	3	0.00	0	19.36	-1.91	80	2,393	29	4,015
South Central												
Biglerville	81	43	64	-2	0.19	2	26.99	7.58	78	2,804	-124	4,451
Everett	81	40	63	1	0.10	1	20.88	2.06	76	2,305	-108	3,842
Hanover	80	42	64	-3	0.24	2	26.05	6.64	73	2,812	-116	4,467
Harrisburg_AP	81	44	66	0	0.22	2	25.85	5.20	80	3,003	0	4,677
South Mountain	76	42	61	-2	0.13	2	28.14	8.77	83	2,209	-205	3,811
York	80	40	64	-3	0.22	2	23.86	3.01	72	2,802	-112	4,453
Southeast												
Green Lane	79	43	63	-1	0.04	2	31.61	9.68	80	2,776	155	4,424
Hamburg	79	45	63	2	0.25	2	34.83	9.63	83	2,735	339	4,391
West_Chester	80	40	63	-4	0.03	1	29.25	5.48	75	2,792	-117	4,423
Lancaster	79	44	64	-1	0.53	2	24.96	2.90	76	2,859	88	4,506
Neshaminy Falls	79	43	63	-3	0.16	1	30.49	5.06	72	2,859	121	4,510
New Holland	79	47	64	-2	0.08	2	27.71	5.65	76	2,848	77	4,504
Philadelphia	81	51	67	-1	0.01	1	29.31	7.75	77	3,415	237	5,111
Philadelphia NE	80	46	65	-4	0.38	1	25.45	3.89	77	3,087	-91	4,762
Reading	80	44	64	-1	0.07	2	27.04	3.46	81	2,975	252	4,637
Sellersville	79	42	62	-3	0.04	2	31.29	9.36	77	2,582	-39	4,215
Willow Grove	79	46	64	-2	0.03	2	46.28	20.85	77	2,952	214	4,615

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).
 Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.
 Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.
 Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.
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REPORTERS COMMENTS, By County

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A Behney - We had a pretty nice week of weather. At the end of last week we got about 2" of rainfall and this week we had some showers but not much accumulation. Most days were sunny and 70 degrees. Corn silage harvest continues in the county. Corn and soybeans for grain continue to grow due to late planted corn. Hay continues to be made mostly for haylage due to weather conditions not being very good for baling dry hay. Barley and wheat are being seeded. Peaches are about done being harvested with good crop being reported. Also apples continue to be harvested with nice size and color being reported. Some quality issues occurred with scab due to wet weather earlier this year. Vegetables and pumpkins continue to be harvested. Overall, producers are busy harvesting crops and are keeping plenty busy.

ADAMS COUNTY, Lee Showalter - It was a decent week for apple harvest. Galas are virtually complete as are Honeycrisp. Most growers are harvesting Golden Delicious for processing while Golds for fresh will start this week. There has been some minor harvesting of Red Delicious. Color development is excellent with the favorable weather. Labor is adequate at this time.

BRADFORD COUNTY, Lisa Shanks - There has not been a frost yet. We still have adequate moisture and crop is doing well.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little - Producers are finishing harvesting hay, beginning to make corn silage, and harvesting potatoes for storage.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - It was a good week for fall field work. There was no rain.

CLEARFIELD COUNTY, William Clouser - Cover crops are being planted on more of the harvested potato acreage than in past years. This should have a very positive impact on erosion control and soil quality.

CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner - The corn crop is maturing and close to harvesting for silage. Soybeans and corn for grain are a few weeks away from maturity. Many farmers were able to make third and fourth cuttings on legume plants.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - It was one of the best weeks all summer for getting projects finished.

Producers were completing hay and getting equipment ready for corn silage harvest. Pastures are still holding up fair with another regrowth expected due to the cooler and wetter weather forecasted for the upcoming week.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - The apple harvest is well under way. Size is the best it has been in years. Scab will be a factor in determining the growers' final income. There may be a problem with breakdown in storage due to the large apple size. Corn silage harvest has slowed down. The high moisture grain harvest is now under way. A few soybean plantings have leaves turning now.

INDIANA COUNTY, David B. Overdorff - There was no rain last week. Things are pretty dry now. The corn and soybeans are looking good and are on track for maturing soon.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY, John Esslinger - The apple harvest is progressing nicely. The quality is good in orchard which has not been affected by the late spring freeze. The fruit size is only fair. The tomato crop continues to deteriorate due to late blight infections being more severe in the later plantings.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth, Jr. (NRCS) - Corn and soybeans are drying down fast. Silage harvesting is progressing. Corn grain harvesting has begun. Planting small grain, cover crops, making hay and spreading manure were some of the activities this past week. Overall, a pretty good week for field work.

MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust - We are in need of some rain for the new seedings of alfalfa. Nice week to dry and bale hay. Fields are being prepared for the planting of fall wheat.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - It was a good week for this time of the year. A few corn fields are showing signs of leaf disease. Some soybeans are dropping the leaves and the amount of pods is very good. The main activities for the week were silo filling, sowing grain, and making hay.

TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes - Too wet early in summer, to dry late in summer.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr - It was a dry week; made for excellent corn silage harvest conditions. It was another good week for late-season hay harvest. Corn and soybeans are maturing quickly.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending September 20, 2009

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	34	39	36
Corn, dough	90	95	98
Corn, dent	70	77	87
Corn, mature	18	33	52
Corn, harvested	5	13	16
Corn silage, harvested	43	60	69
Barley, planted	24	34	30
Barley, emerged	7	9	11
Wheat, planted	13	15	12
Tobacco, harvested	89	91	92
Potatoes, harvested	71	46	51
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	94	100	97
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	41	66	54
Apples, harvested	48	39	51

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending September 20, 2009

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	1	3	15	53	28
Soybeans	0	3	18	50	29
Quality of hay made	2	4	20	49	25
Pasture	2	5	23	53	17
Apples	0	0	1	58	41

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